



# CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS BULLETIN

Serving the People of California

January 1991

## CALIFORNIA OCTOBER 1990

This is the first monthly edition of the Statewide California Agricultural Employment and Earnings Bulletin. The data in these bulletins will allow comparison of employment levels and earnings for different crop, livestock and agricultural services industries and different time periods.

This bulletin covers 26 agricultural industries, organized into five data tables: Wage and Salary Workers (Table 1), Agricultural Production Workers (Table 2), Average Weekly Earnings (Table 3), Average Hours Worked (Table 4), and Average Hourly Earnings (Table 5).

The data in this bulletin are derived from two sources: the Employment Development Department (EDD) Unemployment Insurance (UI) files, and a sample of 4,000 agricultural employers. This monthly sample was selected to be statistically representative of the agricultural employers by size, geographic location and industry categories.

Sample data are gathered for the mid-week of the month, thus all data in these bulletins represent activities taking place during this mid-month period. The sample was not complete prior to October 1990, therefore the production worker, earnings and hours data for October 1989 are not available for comparison.

Reports for six regions will be published in the near future, and allow inter-regional comparisons of employment and earnings.

### **CURRENT MONTH FIGURES:**

The total employment of 380,800 in agriculture for October 1990 (Table 1) was 15 percent (65,900) below the September 1990 level and down three percent from a year ago. The September to October decline, in line with seasonal expectations, was concentrated in the San Joaquin Valley, where the grape industry experienced a post-harvest decline of 30,000, and farm labor contractors employed 18,200 fewer workers. Data indicate that the statewide employment decline from a year ago was largely in the farm labor contractors category.

Production worker employment (Table 2) fell 15 percent between September and October 1990, to a total of 333,200. The largest drop was in the grape industry, as the harvest came to a close and 31,000 fewer workers were needed. The next largest decline of 17,600 workers, was in the farm labor contractors category.

Average weekly earnings for agricultural production workers (Table 3) were \$266.56 in October, down from \$268.16 in September. The October average weekly earnings were \$271.10 for crop production, \$331.62 for livestock, and \$246.01 for agricultural services.

Average hours worked by agricultural production workers (Table 4) declined from 41.9 in September to 41.2 hours in October. Average hours worked in crops were 43.1; the livestock and agricultural services figures were 48.2 and 41.2, respectively.

Average hourly earnings for agricultural production workers (Table 5) rose from \$6.40 in September to \$6.47 in October. The October average was \$6.29 in the crops industries, down from \$6.31 in September. In the livestock industries, the average remained the same at \$6.88, but the services industries were up \$0.28 to \$6.74. October average hourly earnings ranged from a low of \$5.69 in tree nuts to a high of \$10.61 in soil preparation services.

#### **DATA COMMENTS:**

To aid in accurate usage and interpretation of the data, please note the following:

- Employment data do not include employers or unpaid family workers.
- Wage and salary workers are all employees receiving compensation from the employer.
- Production workers are employees engaged in commodity production and exclude managers, supervisors, office, sales and other staff not involved in production.
- Average hours and earnings are based on full-time and part-time production worker data.
- Average gross weekly earnings include overtime pay and premium wages. These are gross earnings before deductions and exclude the value of housing and meals. It is important to note that these earnings are not wage rates but averages of gross earnings.
- Figures for the current month are preliminary and subject to revision.
- Total agricultural employment estimates in this bulletin are derived from a new monthly sampling project, the Current Employment Statistics for Agriculture. Although similar (in magnitude) to other employment estimates published by the Department, these figures will not be the same because different methods are used.
- The "mid-week" is the week that includes the 12th calendar day of the month.

If you wish to receive future issues of this publication, please complete and return the attached evaluation form, or write to: Special Projects Unit, Employment Development Department, P.O. Box 826216, Sacramento, CA 94299-9994 and request placement on the mailing list.



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1. Name of your organization or firm: \_\_\_\_\_ Firm's major activity or product: \_\_\_\_\_
2. The information in this report will be used for:
- ☐ Planning ☐ Source for other reports/studies ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Wage Information ☐ Employment /Worker Information
3. This report is: ☐ Very useful ☐ Somewhat useful ☐ Not useful
- Which part was most useful and/or least useful? Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
4. Suggestions to improve this report : \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
5. Suggestions for future studies or publications: \_\_\_\_\_
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**Thank you for your comments.**

TABLE 1  
WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS  
CALIFORNIA (IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	381.2	446.7	394.3
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	224.2	267.0	224.0
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	4.0	3.4	4.6
RICE	2.3	1.8	2.5
OTHER CASH GRAIN	1.0	1.0	1.4
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	13.8	12.9	13.8
COTTON	7.7	6.9	7.7
OTHER FIELD CROPS	5.1	5.0	4.9
VEGETABLE AND MELONS	39.7	43.0	37.1
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	91.1	129.3	97.1
BERRIES	15.5	11.9	12.9
GRAPES	38.3	69.9	39.6
TREE NUTS	9.3	10.0	10.7
CITRUS FRUITS	5.1	5.1	5.7
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	12.1	19.1	14.4
FRUITS AND NUTS NEC	10.8	13.3	13.8
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	36.4	32.6	36.2
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	33.2	29.3	32.9
FIELD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	3.2	3.3	3.3
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	39.2	45.8	35.2
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	27.2	27.5	28.0
TOTAL LIVE EXCEPT DAIRY & POUL.	5.7	5.6	6.3
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	0.8	0.8	1.1
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	4.0	3.9	4.3
DAIRY FARMS	12.5	12.8	12.5
TOTAL POULTRY AND EGGS	6.3	6.3	6.4
CHICKEN EGGS	3.4	3.4	3.5
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	1.4	1.4	1.3

TABLE 1  
WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS  
CALIFORNIA (IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	1.8	1.9	1.7
GENERAL FARM PRIM. LIVESTOCK	0.9	0.9	1.1
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	129.8	152.2	142.3
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	1.1	1.0	1.1
CROP SERVICES	47.5	49.6	47.7
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	4.3	6.0	5.2
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	9.5	9.8	9.1
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	30.7	32.7	30.3
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	81.2	101.6	93.5
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	72.5	90.7	84.3
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	8.7	10.9	9.2

TABLE 2  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	333.5	393.1	NA
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	196.7	236.2	NA
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	3.3	3.1	NA
RICE	1.8	1.6	NA
OTHER CASH GRAIN	0.9	0.9	NA
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	12.5	11.6	NA
COTTON	7.1	6.4	NA
OTHER FIELD CROPS	4.5	4.3	NA
VEGETABLE AND MELONS	37.0	39.9	NA
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	82.5	118.5	NA
BERRIES	15.3	11.6	NA
GRAPES	35.8	66.8	NA
TREE NUTS	8.1	8.9	NA
CITRUS FRUITS	4.7	4.7	NA
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	9.0	14.3	NA
FRUITS AND NUTS NEC	9.6	12.2	NA
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	29.9	26.1	NA
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	27.6	23.6	NA
FIELD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	2.3	2.5	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	31.5	37.0	NA
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	23.3	23.8	NA
TOTAL LIVE EXCEPT DAIRY & POUL.	4.6	4.6	NA
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	0.7	0.7	NA
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	3.2	3.2	NA
DAIRY FARMS	11.9	12.3	NA
TOTAL POULTRY AND EGGS	4.6	4.6	NA
CHICKEN EGGS	2.4	2.4	NA
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	0.9	0.9	NA

TABLE 2  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	1.4	1.5	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIM. LIVESTOCK	0.8	0.8	NA
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	113.5	133.1	NA
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	0.9	0.8	NA
CROP SERVICES	34.7	34.7	NA
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	3.4	4.7	NA
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	8.4	8.5	NA
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	20.4	20.8	NA
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	77.9	97.6	NA
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	70.5	88.1	NA
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	7.4	9.5	NA

NA = NOT AVAILABLE

TABLE 3  
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN DOLLARS PER WEEK)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	\$ 266.56	\$ 268.16	NA
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	271.10	273.22	NA
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	347.49	303.65	NA
RICE	368.15	297.87	NA
OTHER CASH GRAIN	317.03	333.44	NA
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	321.00	289.08	NA
COTTON	324.73	281.66	NA
OTHER FIELD CROPS	326.90	308.13	NA
VEGETABLE AND MELONS	301.92	312.06	NA
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	236.51	250.63	NA
BERRIES	208.10	280.52	NA
GRAPES	243.18	250.00	NA
TREE NUTS	263.45	290.18	NA
CITRUS FRUITS	282.67	258.72	NA
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	220.80	211.07	NA
FRUITS AND NUTS NEC	224.85	241.96	NA
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	285.75	293.83	NA
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	284.09	291.87	NA
FIELD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	302.44	310.42	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	285.36	281.31	NA
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	331.62	339.87	NA
TOTAL LIVE EXCEPT DAIRY & POUL.	309.33	322.94	NA
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	360.36	334.93	NA
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	296.33	321.52	NA
DAIRY FARMS	360.72	368.94	NA
TOTAL POULTRY AND EGGS	283.18	287.31	NA
CHICKEN EGGS	271.80	277.29	NA
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	328.72	340.99	NA



TABLE 3  
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN DOLLARS PER WEEK)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	\$ 331.33	\$ 318.84	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIM. LIVESTOCK	304.32	331.49	NA
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	246.01	245.48	NA
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	579.31	586.88	NA
CROP SERVICES	288.40	269.18	NA
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	332.11	282.88	NA
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	257.76	256.32	NA
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	276.31	269.09	NA
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	223.98	234.74	NA
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	222.26	231.19	NA
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	235.92	264.63	NA

NA - NOT AVAILABLE

TABLE 4  
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED BY PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN HOURS PER WEEK)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	41.2	41.9	NA
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	43.1	43.3	NA
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	49.5	45.8	NA
RICE	50.5	45.2	NA
OTHER CASH GRAIN	49.0	52.1	NA
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	53.5	49.5	NA
COTTON	55.7	48.9	NA
OTHER FIELD CROPS	51.4	51.7	NA
VEGETABLE AND MELONS	44.4	44.9	NA
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	38.9	40.1	NA
BERRIES	34.8	43.9	NA
GRAPES	38.6	38.7	NA
TREE NUTS	46.3	49.1	NA
CITRUS FRUITS	42.7	39.2	NA
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	38.4	36.9	NA
FRUITS AND NUTS NEC	38.7	42.3	NA
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	45.0	46.2	NA
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	45.6	47.0	NA
FIELD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	37.9	38.9	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	46.1	47.2	NA
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	48.2	49.4	NA
TOTAL LIVE EXCEPT DAIRY & POUL.	46.1	48.2	NA
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	57.2	49.4	NA
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	41.1	45.8	NA
DAIRY FARMS	50.1	51.1	NA
TOTAL POULTRY AND EGGS	45.6	47.1	NA
CHICKEN EGGS	45.0	47.4	NA
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	53.8	55.9	NA

TABLE 4  
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED BY PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN HOURS PER WEEK)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	46.6	44.1	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIM. LIVESTOCK	50.3	53.9	NA
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	36.5	38.0	NA
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	54.6	52.4	NA
CROP SERVICES	41.2	38.4	NA
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	52.3	44.2	NA
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	35.9	36.0	NA
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	39.7	37.9	NA
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	34.3	37.8	NA
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	34.3	37.9	NA
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	33.8	36.4	NA

NA - NOT AVAILABLE

TABLE 5  
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA  
(IN DOLLARS PER HOUR)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL	\$ 6.47	\$ 6.40	NA
TOTAL FIELD CROPS	6.29	6.31	NA
TOTAL CASH GRAIN	7.02	6.63	NA
RICE	7.29	6.59	NA
OTHER CASH GRAIN	6.47	6.40	NA
FIELD CROPS EXCEPT CASH GRAIN	6.00	5.84	NA
COTTON	5.83	5.76	NA
OTHER FIELD CROPS	6.36	5.96	NA
VEGETABLE AND MELONS	6.80	6.95	NA
TOTAL FRUIT AND TREE NUTS	6.08	6.25	NA
BERRIES	5.98	6.39	NA
GRAPES	6.30	6.46	NA
TREE NUTS	5.69	5.91	NA
CITRUS FRUITS	6.62	6.60	NA
DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT	5.75	5.72	NA
FRUITS AND NUTS NEC	5.81	5.72	NA
TOTAL HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES	6.35	6.36	NA
ORNAMENTAL FLORAL & NURS PRD	6.23	6.21	NA
FIELD CROPS GROWN UNDR COVER	7.98	7.98	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIMARILY CROP	6.19	5.96	NA
TOTAL AGRIC. PROD. LIVESTOCK	6.88	6.88	NA
TOTAL LIVE EXCEPT DAIRY & POUL.	6.71	6.70	NA
BEEF CATTLE FEED LOTS	6.30	6.78	NA
BEEF CATTLE EXCEPT FEED LOTS	7.21	7.02	NA
DAIRY FARMS	7.20	7.22	NA
TOTAL POULTRY AND EGGS	6.21	6.10	NA
CHICKEN EGGS	6.04	5.85	NA
TURKEYS & TURKEY EGGS	6.11	6.10	NA

TABLE 5  
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS,  
CALIFORNIA (IN DOLLARS PER HOUR)

INDUSTRY	OCT 1990	SEP 1990	OCT 1989
TOTAL ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	\$ 7.11	\$ 7.23	NA
GENERAL FARM PRIM. LIVESTOCK	6.05	6.15	NA
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICES	6.74	6.46	NA
SOIL PREPARATION SERVICES	10.61	11.20	NA
CROP SERVICES	7.00	7.01	NA
CROP PLANT-CULT-PROTECTION	6.35	6.40	NA
CROP HARVEST PRIM. MACHINE	7.18	7.12	NA
CROP PREP. SERV. FOR MARKET	6.96	7.10	NA
TOTAL FARM LABOR & MANAGEMENT	6.53	6.21	NA
FARM LABOR CONTRACTORS	6.48	6.10	NA
FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES	6.98	7.27	NA

NA = NOT AVAILABLE